

Docket No.: SOM920010002US1

REMARKS

The present application was filed on May 24, 2001 with claims 1 through 26. New claims 27-31 were added in the Amendment and Response to Office Action dated December 2, 2004. Claims 1 through 31 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-10, 14, 17-20, 22-24 and 26-31 are proposed to be cancelled herein, without prejudice. Independent Claim 11 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 14.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12, 15-20, 22-24 and 26-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Pellerin (United States Patent Number 5,497,411). The Examiner indicated that claims 21 and 25 are allowed and that claims 13-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent Claim 11 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 14 (now cancelled). Thus, Independent Claim 11 is believed to be allowable, in addition to dependent claims 12, 13, 15 and 16, which depend on claim 11. The Examiner has already indicated that claims 21 and 25 are allowed.

Thus, allowance of claims 11-13, 15-16, 21 and 25 is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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